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AUTHOR	Fatunde, S. S.
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ABSTRACT

A brief background and history of the Women Programme in Nigeria are given, followed by a statement of the objectives of the program. The operation of the program and staff training are described. Women Circle Centres where courses in Community Development and Home Improvement are given are listed, as are Women Special Centres for pre-vocational training for young women. Other women's group activities are discussed. (RS)

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Adult Education for Social Development

(WOMEN PROGRAMME IN THE WESTERN STATE OF NIGERIA)

by

S. S. FATUNDE

Ministry of Economic Planning and Reconstruction
(Social Development Division)
Western State, Ibadan, Nigeria

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ADULT EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

WOMEN PROGRAMME IN THE WESTERN STATE OF NIGERIA

by

S. S. Fatunde

Women occupy a very important place in the human society. It is recognised that they are the home-makers, constitute the main custodian of the culture and of the channels which transmit to posterity the social as well as the cultural values of the community. In recognition of these roles, successive governments of the Western State accord to women a special place in the schemes of Social Development services of the State.

Considerable attention has, since the introduction of Mass Literacy and Fundamental Education in 1946, been given to social education among women through the organisation of women's institutes and women centres. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, domestic science centres were in the first instance strengthened. A number of the centres expanded to organise informal education in cookery and housecrafts for adult women, prominent among which was the former Old Barracks Domestic Science Centre, Ibadan. With the intensification of agricultural education both among young school leavers and the rural populations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has begun extension services in Home Economics. Cookery Demonstrations and Improved Nutrition campaigns have been organised all over the State. Fundamental education, which to all intents and purposes embrace also the education of women for community action, has however largely been in the hands of the Ministry responsible for community development.

Women programme as such was not treated as a special concern until 1962 when the Government accepted the recommendation by Miss Teresa Spens, F. A. O. Home Economics Consultant "to develop an operational programme in which trained staff can work among women and their families in towns and villages". Following the acceptance of the report, a 'Women Programme' section was created in the Community Development Division of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development. Necessary machinery was also set in motion for the improvement of the existing women centres and a training programme for women workers, these being part of Miss Spens' recommendations. Participating in the programme are the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, and the United Nations

Children's Fund which not only facilitated the services of technical assistance experts but also provided equipment, transport facilities, stipends for the students and honoraria for the instructors. In 1968 Government directed that all extension services in Home Economics should be centralised in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Social Development. Thereafter all informal education of women outside the classroom became the responsibility of that Ministry.

Objectives

1. To acquaint the people of the State, particularly those in the rural areas, with the technical and general knowledge and skills necessary to increase productivity and industry.

2. To give a general assistance in the improvement of the health, nutrition and sanitary conditions of the people.

3. To help in raising the general level of education, particularly in rural communities, so that the people might be able to avail themselves of the fruits of democracy.

4. To contribute to the general emancipation of women and to inspire them to play a marked role in development activities.

5. To assist and encourage in the State the growth of women's groups and associations which are dedicated to the advancement of women and welfare matters in general and to sponsor projects in the field of adult education, social services, economic development and community well-being.

Mode of Operation

Women Programme operates in two main directions, namely, institutional training of leaders and lay women and field work among women in the various communities, both urban and rural. In either case efforts are addressed to upgrading the women's home-making and trading skills as well as orientating them towards an effective contribution to the appropriate aspects of the State's and national development programmes. Three of the institutions which are State owned are the Women Training Centres located respectively at Abeokuta, Oyo and Owo. The others are Women Special Centres either owned by local government authorities or by voluntary organisations which are grant-aided by the State. Women Special Centres provide prevocational training largely for young female school leavers. The field staff operate among women giving lectures,

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talks, demonstration and holding briefing sessions and discussion on a wide range of subjects such as mothercraft and childcare, arts and crafts, social education, etc. The women are also organised into co-operative groups and are encouraged to participate in community self help projects. The programme is followed up with home visits which have proved extremely valuable.

Training of Female Field Staff

The Social Development Women Training Centre, opposite Bodija Air-Port, Ibadan was established in 1965 with technical assistance from the participating United Nations agencies and Denmark. It conducts a one-year course in Social Development and Home Economics to prepare female staff for work among women both in the field and in the institutions for training women and lay leaders. 25 candidates of two categories, namely, Social Welfare Assistants and Social Welfare Workers, are admitted to each course. Although the centre caters for serving officials of the Western State only, candidates sponsored by voluntary organisations and other governments of the Federal Republic could by special arrangements be considered for admission. Admission requirements and course particulars are set out in Schedule I.

On its ten acre grounds the Centre provides residential accommodation, demonstration house, and administrative and classroom block and varied facilities for practical gardening and poultry. It also has an annexe at Ibadan Parapo, some three miles along Ibadan Oyo Road. This serves as a venue for practical field work.

Women Circle Centres

Women Circle Centres were established respectively at Abeokuta (1966), Oyo (1967), and Owo (1968).

The centres conduct respectively 2 three and half month courses in Community Development and Home Improvement with additional specialisation in either Mothercraft and Childcare, Cookery and Catering, or Sewing and Dressmaking. The objectives of the courses are:

(i) to help women recognise the need for raising the family living standards and for improving their homes and the care of their children;

(ii) to encourage women to participate in community activities and to arouse in them a desire to give effective leadership in community improvement;

(iii) to give the participants such training as would enable them (if they so desire) to assist community development officials

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on a paid or voluntary basis.

20 candidates in the age range 22-40 years are admitted to each course and are recruited as scheduled below:

Abeokuta Centre: Ijebu, Ijebu Remo, Egba, Egbado Divisions.

Oyo Centre: Oyo North, Oyo South, Ibadan, Ife, Ijesha, Oshun and Ibarapa Divisions

Owo Centre: Ekiti, Akure, Owo Ondo, Okitipupa Divisions.

Advertisement for applications are usually made in the dailies, through local voluntary organisations and other agencies in appropriate cases.

The Centres in addition conduct week-end courses for women who by the nature of their trades or vocation are not available to go on the long courses. Such courses however are ad hoc and are geared to specific trades such as those for food vendors, market women, etc. Recruitment is usually announced through local women organisations and social development field officials.

Women Special Centres

There are at the moment 12 Women Special Centres in the Western State. Primarily the centres provide pre-vocational training for young female school leavers and young women. The duration of the courses ranges from 3 months to 2 years. A number of the centres are residential:

(i) Vinning Christian Leadership Training Centre, Akure:

Established in 1919 as a Domestic Science Centre by the Anglican Mission, this centre is residential and recruits candidates from among church workers' wives, etc.

(ii) Women Special Centre, Efon Alaye:

Established in 1953 by Ekiti West District Council, the Centre provides for residential and non residential trainees.

(iii) Women Special Centre, Igede:

Established in 1953 by the Igede Development Committee with assistance from Ado District Council, this centre is non-residential.

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(iv) Women Special Centre, Ikire:

Established in 1961 by Aiyedade District Council, the centre is residential.

(v) Women Special Centre, Owo:

This was established in 1958 by Owo District Council.

(vi) St. Brigid's (Roman Catholic Mission) Centre; Ibadan

For women generally, the centre is non-residential.

(vii) Women Special Centre, Ibadan:

Established in 1963 by Ibadan District Council, the centre is non-residential.

(viii) Women Special Centre, Oshogbo:

This was established in 1948 by the Department of Education as a Domestic Science Centre and was taken over in 1962 by the District Council which later converted it to a Women Special Centre. It is non-residential.

(ix) National Council of Women's Societies Centre, Akure:

Established in 1966 by the Akure Branch of the Council, it is non-residential.

(x) Roman Catholic Mission Women Training Centre, Ikare:

Established in 1966, it is non-residential.

(xi) Catholic Pre-Vocational Training Centre, Oye-Ekiti:

Established in 1967, it conducts 3 types of courses - commercial, pre-nursing/midwifery and pre-teacher training. It provides for both residential and non-residential candidates. It also provides extension services for women in the surrounding villages.

(xii) Women Special Centre, Ile-Ife:

Established in 1969 by Ife District Council, it is non-residential.

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The course particulars of the women special centres are in Schedule II.

Home Improvement Volunteer Corps:

Inadequacy of personnel is a traditional problem of Social services particularly in rural areas. In order to offset such problems in the women programme, a Home Improvement Volunteer Corps scheme was started in 1970 when women from families in rural communities of the Western State were recruited for a three-month training in Home Improvement. The women now work on part-time basis among their own folks, influencing and guiding them. Thus the tentacles of the services on a modest scale are gradually pushing to remote areas where otherwise the lure of the city life will handicap the efficient operation of city-dweller functionaries. The volunteers now supplement the work of the female field staff.

Women's Groups:

Women in various parts of the State are organised into groups by the female field officials of the Women Programme section for the purpose of encouraging profitable use of leisure and promotion of the welfare of the family. The groups are either organised from scratch or spring from existing associations, such associations of market women, seamstresses, religious bodies e.g. Muslim Women's group. Currently 74 such groups with an aggregate membership of 2,100 women operate in the Western State.

Women's Group Activities

Food Demonstration and Home Gardening: In order to provide the women participants necessary knowledge, techniques and skill of the food ingredients essential to healthy living, food demonstrations are held from time to time. Improved methods of cooking are also taught. With this approach the family is reached and a wide circle of women is influenced. Women who engage either in food vending or catering services are also helped to improve their costing as well as catering skills. This in turn generates increased income and improved standard of living. Food demonstration is supplemented with Home Gardening, where vegetables and simple food crops are grown. This not only reduces the family's cost of living but also serves as an enviable corollary to food demonstration by ensuring fresh supply of materials and giving the women pride in home grown foods.

Handicrafts: Simple crafts such as straw or nylon bags, calabash and

coconut decorations, moulding, knitting, beadwork, etc. are taught.

Co-operatives: A number of women group members organise themselves into co-operative and credit unions mainly for bulk purchases of food items thereby eliminating the middle-men and consequently cutting down costs.

Home Improvement: Home Improvement is a subject for demonstration, discussion and talks. It provides practice in improved home making and the care of the home.

Guest-at-the-table: This is a type of food demonstration sponsored and assisted by Netherland Organisation for International Assistance. It is addressed to educating women on the special food needs of expectant and nursing mothers, babies and toddlers. The programme explores from time to time various methods to maximise the use of selected local recipes.

Animal Husbandry: Poultry, rabbitry, guinea-piggery as good resources of animal protein are encouraged.

SCHEDULE I

Social Development Women Training Centres

Institution	Accommodation	Categories of Trainees	Course	Durati
Social Development Women Training Centre, Opposite Bodija Aerodrome, Ibadan.	Shared Double Room	Staff Training (i) Social Welfare Workers (ii) Social Welfare Assistants Note: Trainees are paid Officials	Social Dev. and Home Economics: Food & Nutrition, Cookery, Dress-making, Machine Knitting, Machine Embroidery, Arts & Crafts, Mothercraft & Childcare, Home Improvement, Family Economics, Community Develop-ment, Social Case-work, Typing, etc.	1 Year

SCHEDULE I

elopment Women Training Centres

of	Course	Duration	Fees Charges	Admission Requirements	
				Age	Qualifications
ning e s l re nts s	Social Dev. and Home Economics: Food & Nutrition, Cookery, Dress-making, Machine Knitting, Machine Embroidery, Arts & Crafts, Mothercraft & Childcare, Home Improvement, Family Economics, Community Develop-ment, Social Case-work, Typing, etc.	1 Year	Board: 5/- Daily Lodging 7/6d monthly	23-40 years	Social Welfare Workers: Any one of (i) W.A. Sch. Certificate. ii) G.C.E. 'O' Level in 3 subjects including English at one sitting. iii) Grade II Teachers' Certificate. Social Welfare Assistants. Any one of (i) Sec. Modern III Cert. ii) S 75 Cert. or Class IV Cert. iii) House-keeper Matron's Cert.(Women Tr. Centre - Idi-Aba Abeokuta. iv) Teacher Gr.III Cert.

Institution	Accommodation	Categories of Trainees	Course	Du
Social Development Women Training Centre, Abeokuta, Oyo and Owo.	Dormitory with 3 and above	Lay Women & Leaders Field Auxiliaries Note: Trainees are paid 6/3d stipends per diem	Social Dev. and General Orientation, with the option to specialise in any one of (i) Cookery and Catering ii) Sewing and Dress-making iii) Mother-craft and Childcare.	3½

egories of rainees	Course	Duration	Fees/ Charges	Admission Requirements	
				Age	Qualifications
Women & Leaders ld Auxiliaries e: Trainees are paid 6/3d stipends per diem	Social Dev. and General Orientation, with the option to specialise in any one of (i) Cookery and Catering ii) Sewing and Dress-making iii) Mother-craft and Childcare.	3½ months	Board: 5/- Daily Lodging Free.	22-40 Years	Any one of: (i) Primary VI Certificate. ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate.

SCHEDULE II

Women Special Centres

No.	Institution	Accommodation	Categories of Trainees	Course	Du ra
1.	Women Special Centre, Effon-Alaye	Dormitory	Young School Leavers	Machine Knitting, Handicraft, Dressmaking and Needlework, Cookery, Mothercraft and Childcare	1
2.	National Council of Women's Societies Social Centre Akure.	Non-residential	Young School Leavers	Handicraft, Cloth Designing & Dyeing, Machine Knitting, Dressmaking and Needlework, Cookery, Mothercraft and Childcare	1
3.	Winning Leadership Centre, Akure	Dormitory	Wives of Church Workers and Church Women Lay Leaders	Women's Organisation Typing, Cookery, Dressmaking and Needlework, Mothercraft & Childcare	1
4.	Women Special Centre, Owo	Dormitory	Young School Leavers	Handicraft, Dressmaking and Needlework, Knitting, Cookery, Mothercraft and Childcare	1

SCHEDULE II

Women Special Centres

egories rainees	Course	Dura-ration	Fees/ Charges	Admission Requirements	
				Age	Qualifications
ng School vers	Machine Knitting, Handicraft, Dress-making and Needle-work, Cookery, Mothercraft and Childcare	1 Year	£1.10/- monthly	13 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate
ng School eavers	Handicraft, Cloth Designing & Dyeing, Machine Knitting, Dressmaking and Needlework, Cookery, Mother-craft and Childcare	1 Year	£5 per term	13 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate
es of rch kers and rch en Lay ders	Women's Organisa-tion Typing, Cookery, Dress-making and Needlework, Mothercraft & Childcare	1 Year		22 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate
ng School eavers	Handicraft, Dress-making and Needle-work, Knitting, Cookery, Mother-craft and Childcare	1 Year	(i)-Owo D.C. Area Candida-tes: £11 Per annum (ii)- Others £19 per annum	13 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate.

No.	Institution	Accommodation	Categories of Trainees	Course	Dura- 1 Year
5.	Local Community Women Special Centre, Igede	Non-residential	Young School Leavers	Handicraft, Dressmaking & Needlework, Knitting Cookery, Mothercraft & Childcare	1 Year
6.	Women Special Centre, Ile-Ife	Non-residential	Young School Leavers	Handicraft, Dressmaking & Needlework Knitting, Cookery, Mothercraft and Childcare	1 Year
7.	Women Special Centre, Ikare	Non-residential	Young School Leavers	Handicraft, Dressmaking & Needlework, Knitting, Cookery, Mothercraft and Childcare	1 Year
8.	Women Special Centre, (Aiyedade),	Dormitory	Young School Leavers	Home Improvement, Dressmaking & Needlework, Mothercraft & Childcare, Machine Knitting, Handcraft, Cookery	1 Year
9.	Women Special Centre, Oshogbo	Non-residential	Young School Leavers	Home Improvement, Dressmaking and Needlework, Mothercraft & Childcare, Machine Knitting, Handicraft, Cookery	1 Year

tegories Trainees	Course	Dura- 1 Year	Fees/ Charges	Admission Requirements	
				Age	Qualifications
ung School Leavers	Handicraft, Dress-making & Neddle-work, Knitting Cookery, Mother-craft & Child-care	1 Year		13 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate
ung School Leavers	Handicraft, Dress-making & Needle-work Knitting, Cookery, Mother-craft and Childcare	1 Year	£5 p.a.	13 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate
ung School Leavers	Handicraft, Dress-making & Needle-work, Knitting, Cookery, Mother-craft and Childcare	1 Year	£5 p.a.	13 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate
ung School Leavers	Home Improvement, Dressmaking & Needlework, Mothercraft & Childcare, Machine Knitting, Hand-craft, Cookery	1 Year	Boarders: £15 p.a. others: £2 p.a.	13 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate
ung School Leavers	Home Improvement, Dressmaking and Needlework, Mothercraft & Childcare, Machine Knitting, Handi-craft, Cookery	1 Year	£7:10/- per annum	13 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate

No.	Institution	Accommodation	Categories of Trainees	Course	Duration
10.	Roman Catholic Pre-Vocational Training Centre, Oye-Ekiti	Dormitory	Young School Leavers	(i) Pre-Nursing /Mid-wifery (ii) Commercial courses (iii) Pre-Teacher Training	2 Years
11.	Women Special Centre, Apampa, Ibadan	Non-residential	(i) Young School Leavers (ii) Young Adults	Home Improvement, Mothercraft and Childcare, Handicraft, Dressmaking & Needlework, Machine Knitting, Cookery	1 Year
12	St. Brigid's (Roman Catholic) Social Centre, Mokola, Ibadan.	Non-residential	(i) Young School Leavers (ii) Adults	Machine Knitting, Dressmaking & Needlework, Cloth Designing and Dyeing Handicraft, Cookery, Mothercraft and Childcare, Home Improvement, Shorthand and Typing	2 Years

ourse	Dura-tion	Fees/ Charges	Admission Requirements	
			Age	Qualifications
Pre-Nursing /Mid-wifery Commercial courses Pre-Teacher Training	2 Years	£25 p.a.	13 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate
Improvement, rcraft and icare, Handi-, Dress-g & Needle- Machine ing, ry	1 Year	£3 p.a.	17 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate
ne Knitting, making & ework, Designing yeing craft, ry, rcraft and dcare, Home vement, hand and g	2 Years	(i) - General Courses: £4 per term (ii) - Secre-tarial Courses: £1:10/- per term	15 Years and above	(i) Primary Six or (ii) Secondary Modern III Certificate

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